

5 Then the Lord spoke to me again and said, 6 “My care for the people of Judah is like the gently flowing waters of Shiloah, but they have rejected it. They are rejoicing over what will happen to King Rezin and King Pekah. 7 Therefore, the Lord will overwhelm them with a mighty flood from the Euphrates River—the king of Assyria and all his glory. This flood will overflow all its channels 8 and sweep into Judah until it is chin deep. It will spread its wings, submerging your land from one end to the other, O Immanuel.

ISAIAH 8:5-11 NLT

**9 “Huddle together, you nations, and be terrified.
Listen, all you distant lands.**

Prepare for battle, but you will be crushed!

Yes, prepare for battle, but you will be crushed!

**10 Call your councils of war, but they will be worthless.
Develop your strategies, but they will not succeed.
For God is with us!^[e]”**

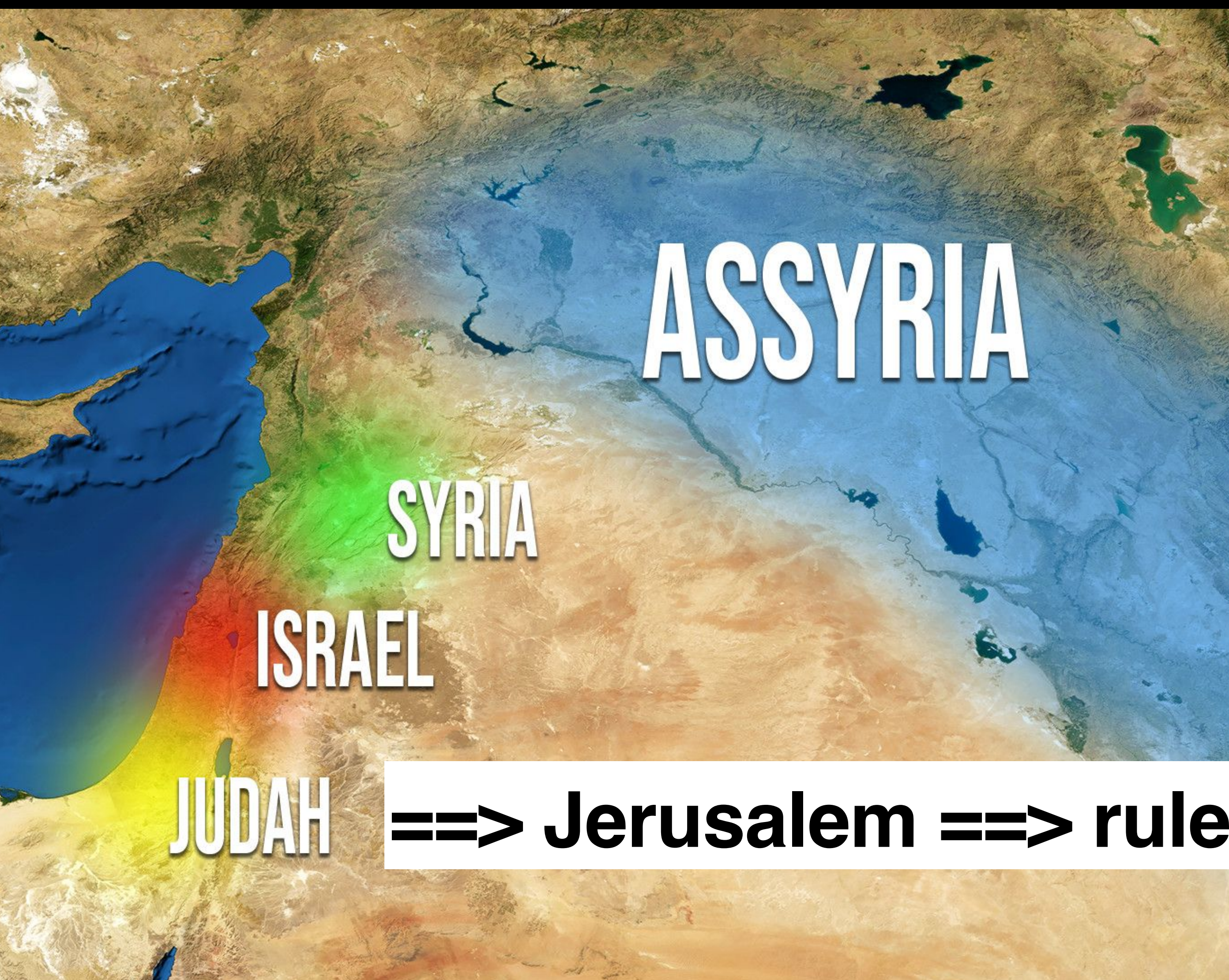
Crises don't *create* trust.

They reveal where it *already* lies.

They reveal where our confidence has been all along.

**When life gets scary,
who do you *really* trust?**





ASSYRIA

SYRIA

ISRAEL

JUDAH

==> Jerusalem ==> ruled by King Ahaz



ASSYRIA

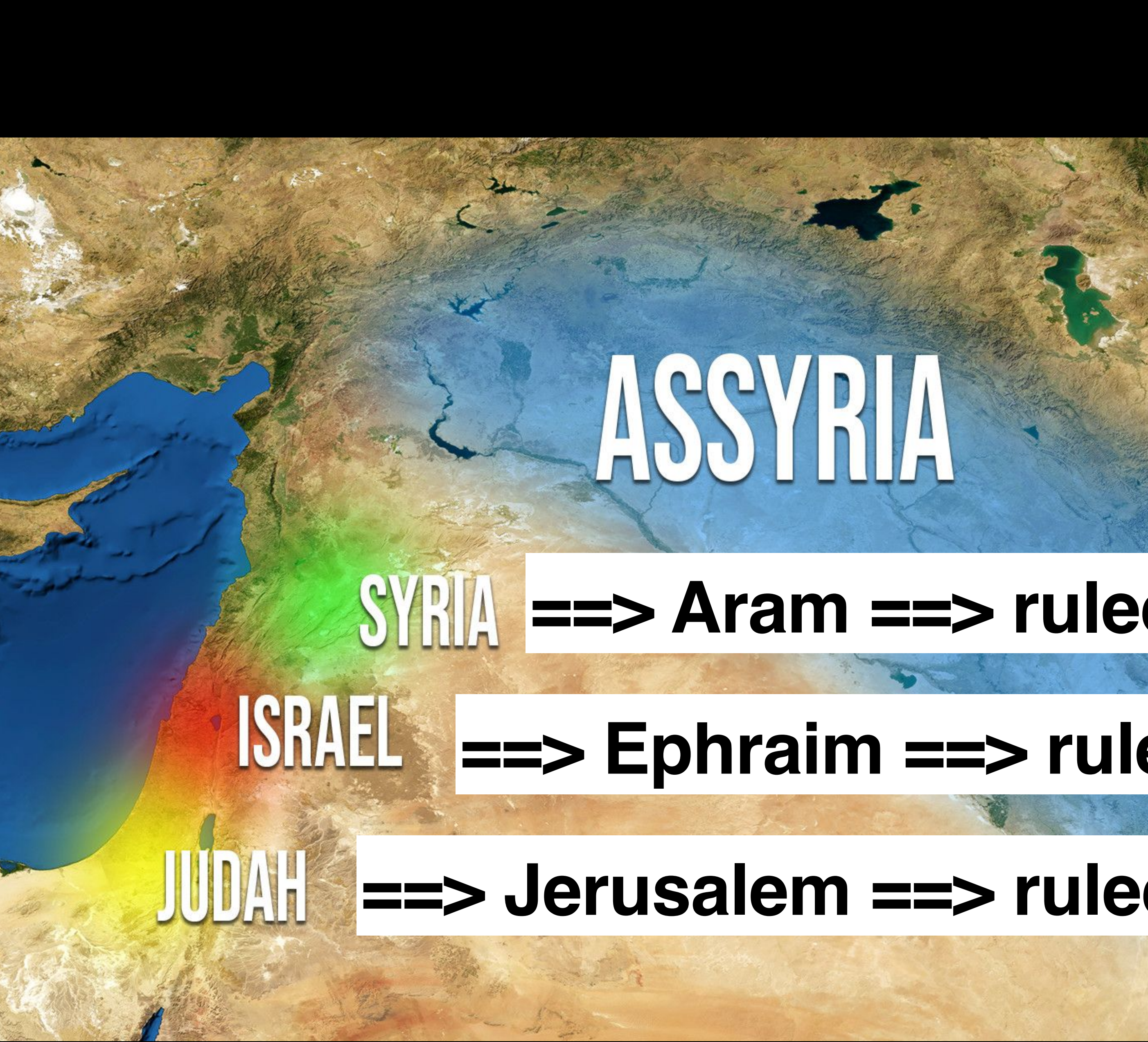
SYRIA

ISRAEL

==> Ephraim ==> ruled by King Pekah

JUDAH

==> Jerusalem ==> ruled by King Ahaz



A satellite-style map of the Near East region. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers are visible, flowing into the Persian Gulf. The land is colored in shades of brown and tan, representing arid terrain. The word 'ASSYRIA' is written in large, white, bold letters across the upper central part of the map. Below it, 'SYRIA' is written in white, bold letters, with a green highlight on the land area. Further south, 'ISRAEL' is written in white, bold letters, with a red highlight on the land area. At the bottom, 'JUDAH' is written in white, bold letters, with a yellow highlight on the land area. To the right of each country name is a white rectangular box containing text about its rulers.

ASSYRIA

SYRIA

==> Aram ==> ruled by King Rezin

ISRAEL

==> Ephraim ==> ruled by King Pekah

JUDAH

==> Jerusalem ==> ruled by King Ahaz

When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it. 2 Now the house of David was told, “Aram has allied itself with Ephraim”; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

ISAIAH 7:1-2 NIV

- **CRISES REVEAL WHAT WE REALLY TRUST**

The greatest threat to Judah?

It *wasn't* Syria.

It *wasn't* Israel.

It *wasn't* even Assyria.

The greatest threat to God's people was...UNBELIEF.

4 Say to him, ‘Be careful, keep calm and don’t be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah...’

7 Yet this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

**“‘It will not take place,
it will not happen,...**

**9 If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all.’”**

ISAIAH 7:4,7-9

**Sometimes, unbelief is not an *intellectual* issue.
It's an *emotional* one.**

Whatever you instinctively run to for peace, security, and hope...
THAT's what you're trusting in.

There's a fine line between being WISE...
and placing more confidence in our *PREPARATION*
than in **GOD's SOVEREIGNTY.**

There's a fine line between *SEEKING INFORMATION...*
and feeding our **FEAR.**

**Ahaz gave more authority to the VOICES of FEAR
than to the VOICE of GOD.**

- **CRISES REVEAL WHAT WE REALLY TRUST**
- **GRACE PURSUES US EVEN WHEN FAITH IS WEAK**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 11 “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

ISAIAH 7:10-11

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 11 “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 11 “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?

Sometimes Bible verses can become “*fig leaves*”.

Sometimes we use spiritual language to hide **spiritual rebellion**.

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you^[c] a sign: **The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.^[f] 15 He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, 16 for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.**

ISAIAH 7:14

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[f] because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”^[g] (which means “God with us”).

- **CRISES REVEAL WHAT WE REALLY TRUST**
- **GRACE PURSUES US EVEN WHEN FAITH IS WEAK**
- **FALSE SAVIORS ALWAYS BRING CONSEQUENCES**

(((PREACHING *the* WORD)))

ISAIAH

GOD *saves* SINNERS



RAYMOND C. ORTLUND JR.

R. Kent Hughes
Series Editor

“Ahaz’s decision to seek rescue from Assyria is like a mouse [Judah], frightened by two rats [Israel + Syria], running to a cat [Assyria] for protection...only to become the cat’s dessert.”

— RAY ORTLUND

**Fear has a way of making *foolish*
decisions look *wise*.**

***False saviors eventually become
harsh masters.***

SOMETIMES...

the most loving thing God can do is

let us discover that our idols cannot save us.

MISHPAT = “God’s judgment”

It isn't simply about punishment.

- **It's about *setting things right*.**
- ***Restoring* what has been *broken*.**
- ***Confronting* what is *destroying* His people.**

MISHPAT = “God’s judgment”

It isn't simply about punishment.

- **It's about *setting things right*.**
- ***Restoring* what has been *broken*.**
- ***Confronting* what is *destroying* His people.**

"The Lord disciplines the one He loves."

— Hebrews 12:6

- **CRISES REVEAL WHAT WE REALLY TRUST**
- **GRACE PURSUES US EVEN WHEN FAITH IS WEAK**
- **FALSE SAVIORS ALWAYS BRING CONSEQUENCES**
- **GOD'S PRESENCE IS GREATER THAN OUR PROBLEMS**

**9 “Huddle together, you nations, and be terrified.
Listen, all you distant lands.**

Prepare for battle, but you will be crushed!

Yes, prepare for battle, but you will be crushed!

**10 Call your councils of war, but they will be worthless.
Develop your strategies, but they will not succeed.
For God is with us!^[e]”**

God promises Himself.

And that is enough.

What if the greatest gift God could ever give you
isn't the REMOVAL of your problem...
But HIS PRESENCE in the middle of it?

The answer to uncertainty *isn't* certainty.

The answer is **Immanuel**.

God with us.

Who or what have you been trusting in?

**Who or what is your “*Assyria*”
that you’ve been going to more than Jesus?**